

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1845.

THE OLD SEDITION LAW OUTDONE.

Bred, ourselves, in doctrines of a popular but regulated liberty—one of us just of a nativity and of an age to share, with youthful enthusiasm, the feelings which produced the Virginia proceedings against the Alien and Sedition Laws; the other the childish witness of a father's persecution and the companion of his fight (fifty years ago) to this country—persecution which he had provoked by maintaining too boldly (if too, boldly it can be maintained) the cause of Popular Right and the Freedom of the Press; beginning our career in politics under the Presidency of Mr. JEFFERSON, and graduating, if we may use the expression, under that of Mr. MADISON, we have been of course always staunch opponents of the old Federal party and its doctrines. This we have been, whether under their original name, loftily and fairly—upon honest and patriotic, if somewhat arbitrary notions—the Federalists strove to establish, by law, a Government too strong; or whether, abandoning the name, that they might far exceed the acts of Federalism, they took, under Gen. JACKSON—certainly the most arbitrary man that this country has ever seen—that success which they could not, without or against law, all, and much more than all, which the Federalists at the very worst never thought of doing, except openly and in legal form.

We have lately taken some pains to show that, in a society of popular constitution and temper, they who aim at the establishment of tyranny must ever, of necessity, fail, until they learn the wit to take ultra-popular names, to charm the unsuspecting people with the idea of a still greater and completer possession of power than that which they already enjoy, and lure them on, by false though specious arguments, to pull down the laws and authorities, that they themselves, the perverters, may reign in their stead.

"So spoke the false Archangel, and infused
"Bad influence into 'till unwary breast
"Of his associate."

All reflecting men have marked instance after instance in which, under a theory of the extreme Republicanism, this pseudo-democracy has continually done things at which, for their utter contempt of all civil freedom, the Federalism of HAMILTON, JAY, MARSHALL, and the first ADAMS, would have blushed or flamed up with indignation. We need scarcely recall the more than Kingly assumption, by General JACKSON, to execute or not to execute laws according as he judged them constitutional; his strange and daring mode of strangling in their passage legislative acts, which he could in no other manner defeat, by pocketing and keeping them; his violent and illegal steps in the Removal of the Deposites, the first overt act of that long and vindictive war which he was suffered to wage against the United States Bank—an institution at least legal, founded as constitutional by the very party in whose name he set the whole Executive power and all his own boundless personal influence to pull it down; his direct attempt, by his Protest to the Senate, to demolish the legislative rights and independence; his overthrow of the concurrent power of the Senate in appointments, by continuing in employment officers whose nomination that body had refused to confirm; the direct use of the Veto as a substantive power over legislation; the open appropriation (now passed into a settled right) of all public patronage as the party and personal spoil of those in power, instead of regarding it in its true light of a trust to be dispensed with a view to the public service alone. All these were, and are, usurpations which Federalism never, in its utmost arrogance, could have imagined: for Federalism, as we have said, never proposed to act but through the laws; and, since such laws could not be enacted except by those whom the people were to elect, Federalism—Old Federalism—meant only, after all, to govern the people through laws of the people's making.

And what, in reality, were those laws, whose unpopularity broke down the old Federal party? Two only of those laws—perhaps we might say a single one, the Sedition Law—drew down upon it political ruin then, and popular reprobation ever since. The Alien Law alone—pointed at non-naturalized disturbers who, driven from Europe for their revolutionary doings, were making themselves amends for their disappointment there by trying to subvert the free government of the land that had lent them a refuge—could have excited but little public outcry, the conduct of those men justifying almost any severity of legislation. Laws of an analogous character now exist on the statute books of several States—South Carolina, Virginia, and Louisiana, for example—as to "colored freemen" of this and of other countries.

Besides these two acts, (legislative ones, be it remarked,) the only two offences charged against the Federalists were, the chartering of a United States Bank in 1791; the suppression of the Whiskey Insurrection in 1793; the refusal to let the French ambassador, GENET, hector our Government, and set up Jacobin societies all over the country; the determined refusal to abandon our wise and right neutrality between France and England; Jay's treaty; the little standing Army, raised when France threatened us with war because we chose to stand neutral; and the limited Navy, erected for protecting our commerce and repelling national insults. Now, all these facts either time itself has vindicated as right, or the Republican party has since adopted them. That party chartered a new United States Bank in 1816; the bloodless vigor used in suppressing the Whiskey-boys is now sanctioned by every body, and by Jackson-men more determined than by any other men; the treatment of GENET and of the haughty demands of the French Directory are now regarded as doing us honor in history; Jay's treaty has come to be looked on as right and wise; the neutral policy of WASHINGTON is now felt to have been the great cause of our rapid rise to commercial prosperity; a small standing Army has been kept up by all Administrations as indispensable even in the profoundest peace; and the maintenance of a formidable and increasing Navy is sanctioned by universal popularity. It is clear, then, that the only real crimes of Old Federalism were the Alien and Sedition acts; and thus, in the contrast of these, as

facts of Jacksonism above recited, we have the precise measure of Old and New Federalism, as systems threatening the overthrow of freedom amongst us. The Alien Law, for the reasons already intimated, we need hardly repeat or describe. That law, whatever it may have been—and certainly we are not fond of such laws—has more than its parallel now flourishing under the auspices of what call themselves "democratic" State Governments. Let us proceed, then, to the SEDITION LAW, to which we desire to present particularly to direct the attention of our readers. Of this law the main provisions were as follows:

It consisted of four sections. By the first, all persons conspiring or combining or exciting to resist, by insurrection, riot, or other illegal means of violence or terror, the execution of the laws of the United States, or to impede persons from assuming or performing their duties as officers thereof, were made punishable by fine and imprisonment. This, then, regarded overt acts of resistance to the laws.

The second section was in the following words, and was that which, as interfering with the Liberty of the Press, excited the main and the just opposition and hatred to the act:

"That if any person shall write, print, utter, or publish, or shall cause to be written, printed, uttered, or published, or shall knowingly and willingly assist or aid in writing, printing, uttering, or publishing any false, scandalous, and malicious writing or writings against the Government of the United States, or either House of the Congress of the United States, or the President of the United States, with intent to defame the said Government, or either House of the said Congress, or the said President, or to bring them or either of them into contempt or disrepute; or to excite against them or any of them the hatred of the good people of the United States; or to stir up sedition within the United States; or to excite any unlawful combinations therein, for opposing or resisting any law of the United States, or any act of the President of the United States done in pursuance of any such law, or of the powers in him vested by the Constitution of the United States; or to resist, oppose, or defeat any law or act; or to aid, encourage, or abet any hostile designs of any foreign nation against the United States, their people, or Government; or then such person, being thereof convicted before any court of the United States having jurisdiction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$2,000, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years."

The third section allowed the truth of any such libel to be pleaded, and the jury to be judges both of the law and fact.

The fourth section limited the operation of the act to the date of 3d March, 1801.

Now, we emphatically ask, whether the claim lately put forth by the literary and doctrinal organs of "the Democracy," its Review—the claim adopted by the Administration, through its avowed organ "the Union"—the claim of the Administration, therefore, to silence with the denunciation of "treason," and all the terrors with which the ascendancy of party and success can arm the Government, all dissent of the press from the official views, be not in the very spirit of this act—except that no jury is allowed, no truth may be pleaded in defence, no term is set at which the law is to expire, and the law is sustained by the Executive authority alone?

If there be any paper at which the more special vengeance of this edict is aimed, we may well presume that it is the National Intelligencer; for, besides that it is presented, here at the seat of Government, the main front of editorial opposition now attempted to be struck down, it led the way in the war against the secret schemes of "Annexation;" denounced and stripped them bare the first; and has fought them, at every step, as a series of misdeeds, certain, at some day, no matter whom they plague in the mean time, to be visited in dire calamities upon the nation committing them. Of our own efforts, we say this of necessity, in order that we may state, upon a distinct case, what offence has been given, under the statute that we have quoted, now to be revived and resuscitated from its old Federal sleep by the new Federal breath of power.

Have we, then, "uttered any false, scandalous, and malicious writing," on the subject of Texas, for the purpose of defaming the Government, or President, or Congress of the United States? If we have committed the "Treason" with which we stand charged on such high authority, it must be by writing or printing, the only arts we practise.

As to defamation, we have lived too long without employing it to resort to it now. We struggled against, and we survived, a fiercer Administration than this can mean to be, without either bending to it or vilifying it; and this when blackened ourselves by its creatures. During this Texas business, the last and the present Administration have come much nearer to libelling us than we to libelling them. Nay, if Mr. BENTON and Mr. BRINKERHOFF, distinguished "Democrats" went not too far in their opinions of the movers of the whole Annexation plot, to libel any body concerned in it must have been exceedingly difficult.

If it be charged that (in the terms of the old Sedition Law) we have labored "to bring the Government into contempt," we answer that, as to the late Administration, we, having enough to do, never occupied ourselves in any such superfluous effort; and that, as to the new Administration, we have no intention to withhold from it any credit to which it shall by its undisclosed merits acquire a title.

But, in truth, all the world knows that, had we entertained, in contradiction to the uniform tenor of our lives, the criminal wish to see our own Government brought into long and deep disgrace, we should only have had to assist, instead of opposing, them in what they have been doing. At each step of these unhappy transactions we struggled with all a citizen's shame to impede the next stride into the slough in which the Government now finds itself. At each successive disclosure of perfidious or absurd dealings, we strove not, disloyally as needlessly, to exaggerate the guilt or the folly, that the nation might be dispirited; we luxuriated not, as one loving to see the public reputation suffer, in facts that were so much to sink it; but, on the contrary, in divulging or exposing them—the only possible means of averting the consummation, and staying further, as well as somewhat curing past, disgrace—it was our continual and our solemn effort to add nothing to the odium of such acts. Even for our single purpose of preventing them, that was unnecessary. Had we felt it needful or even possible, our own hearts, full all the while of sorrow and dismay, would have forbidden it. We could not—for public duty strongly prohibited it—play the part entirely of those sons of the patriarch who, walking backward, cast a cloak over their father to screen from every eye his inebriated nakedness; but we did not, like that third son of his, mock at

him; nor still less, like certain other graceless children, seek to intoxicate him with deeper draughts.

In a word, if the "Democracy" and the Administration feel that, in this Texas business, the national reputation has greatly suffered, let them not think to visit upon innocent heads the inevitable consequences of their own conduct. Such deeds, let them be assured, are ever followed, even if power could for the moment hush every thing into a dishonest silence, by the same ultimate voice of indignant justice and humanity. That voice no factious clamor of the day can forestall—no force, nor bribe, nor slavishness make mute. It will, on the contrary, but rise the higher and peal the wider for any ignominious attempt to stifle it. There is a calm, an impartial, and a lofty thought and sense of the civilized world at large, present here, as in all countries, and even now whispering in the hearts of many who have aided in this immolation of not merely the rights and the peace of others, but of our own character, laws, and interests. That thought, that opinion of the good every where, sitting in judgment, as it does, on the acts of Kings and Commonwealths alike, would speak the same sentence, in this business, whether we of the instant abused or applauded, and whether or not the terrors of Presidential denunciation are put on, to confound with the cry of "treason," and the threat of persecution more bitter than any sedition law, the voice of the free citizen of our times and of posterity.

"If this be 'Treason,'" let the Administration "make the most of it." As for its reputation, if it will try to make for itself a good one, we will with pleasure help it, as far as we can; but that is a thing not to be acquired by an Administration which shall undertake to override with its power and patronage the freedom of speech and of the press. If, in the language of that law of its predecessors which we have quoted, the Government has been "brought into contempt," perhaps it mistakes the true criminals: perhaps these were the managers of certain revolting intrigues and negotiations, the authors of certain treaties and despatches, the writers of certain anonymous letters, the plotters of certain plots, the voters of certain votes in the Baltimore Convention, the speakers of certain Senatorial speeches exposing these transactions, the vehemence, the scornfulness, and the power of which expositions we never attempted to approach.

THE "CRUSADE."

The Cincinnati Gazette, noticing a late article in the government paper, speaking of the ease with which a "crusade" could be got up to "the Halls of the Montezumas," says:

"We feel, as we fear, the spirit of the temper of the article in the Union. It bodes no good. It is evil. The cry of 'Ho! West!—one blast from the bugle, proclaiming as watchwords the 'Halls of the Montezumas,' and the mines of Mexico,' would start into being twenty thousand volunteers! Ay, so it would. What then? Why, in this valley, teeming with life, a spirit of aggression—of mad and maddening excitement—of a selfish and burning thirst for power—of military excitement—of conquest in its worst and most detestable form—would rise as a tyrant master, sweeping all before it, and, as sure as it lives, devastating the hope of the virtuous and the free. Let all parties shun this spirit as they would dishonor. Let the country smite it down, in its early manhood, ere that manhood be smitten unto death by its foul and degrading breath."

The "Union" seems to discountenance the idea that any special minister will be sent to England to negotiate on the Oregon question. In allusion to a remark of the Charleston Mercury, it declares itself quite willing to leave the trouble and honor of the negotiation to Mr. BUCHANAN, and adds:

"We presume that the negotiation is really resumed, and will be prosecuted in this city, and not in London, to some definite conclusion—peaceably, we should hope; but we wish for no peace but an honorable peace."

In another paragraph the "Union" refers to the suggestion which has been made of leaving the decision of the question to arbitration, and says:

"We understand that Mr. CALHOUN declined this proposition when made by the British Minister, and declined it, it is said, upon grounds of the strongest character. We are content to wait for the publication of that document, with the general remark that it is seldom, if ever, that the umpirage of third power has been able to settle satisfactorily the controversy between two States in relation to disputed territory."

The rejection of arbitration will take away one of the alternative modes of settling the controversy amicably. No other mode of peaceful adjustment will remain except compromise.—*Balt. American.*

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW YORK.

The composition of the late House of Assembly struck us with a surprise that was really startling. The Albany correspondent of one of the city papers (the Courier and Enquirer, we think) states, that out of the 128 members who composed the Assembly, but ten had been members of any previous Legislature, and that three only of these belonged to the dominant party of 67 or 68. This, we say, startled us. We are accustomed to think that people are not born legislators any more than they are born scholars, divines, or lawyers. We are accustomed to think that difficult and complicated business cannot be managed well by those who undertake it for the first time. It has always been our opinion that legislation was a business peculiarly complicated and difficult. Yet here we see the legislation of this great State, equalling in population and wealth kingdoms which have played a great part in the history of the world, committed an entire year in the most important branch to new hands—to people who, for the most part, had only a newspaper-idea of what legislation was.

The legislation for three millions of people lying in the hands of sixty-eight men, (the dominant party) not one in twenty of whom had the least experience in legislation! We do not know that any evil has resulted from this state of things, but it has a strange aspect. The fact deserves a place in the memory of those who are studying the workings of republican institutions, and, among other things, the effect of our frequent elections.—*N. Y. Mirror.*

The Detroit Daily Advertiser announces a novel enterprise in the following:

"The great Ocean is to take in a load of Michigan produce from this port, proceed at an early day through the Welland Canal, and down the St. Lawrence, and thence along the Atlantic coast to the West Indies. They will there probably sell not only their cargo but their vessel. This is yet destined to be a considerable and important branch of trade."

We find the following in the New Orleans Tropic of the 12th instant:

"AN ENGLISH SQUADRON.—Captain Hathaway, of the ship Wabash, from New York, arrived here yesterday, reports that he came round the Horn-in-the-Wall in company with an English squadron, consisting of one line of battle ship, one frigate, one sloop of war, and a ten-gun brig. Parted company with them on the 5th, off the Double-Headed Shot Keys. Supposed they were bound to Havana."

AN ALLEGED CRIME.—In the possession of a man named Harrison, convicted of a highway robbery near Leeds, England, as reported to transportation, there has been found, consisting of a record of all his robberies! The book is small and neat, is gilt-edged, and forms in fact a sort of robber's album.

FROM THE FAR WEST.

VAN BUREN, (ARKANSAS), MAY 3.

The Annual Council of the Creeks commenced on Thursday last, and from what we can learn will be well attended. The runners which were sent out to the prairies did not succeed in bringing in the wild tribes, but on the contrary narrowly escaped being murdered. A letter from a gentleman in the Creek Nation to a friend in this place, states that the runners which were sent to the Camanches were robbed, and chased six days and nights, and escaped very narrowly. The Pawnees, it is thought, will war upon the Creeks during the ensuing summer. The Creeks will decide during the present Council the course to be pursued towards them. There is much important business to be transacted, and, upon the whole, will be well worthy of attendance. The Wacos, Kichees, and Caddoes are the only Prairie tribes that will be represented.

The report of the murder of a party of Creeks, who went out on the prairies to trade, is confirmed. Among them were Jesse Chisholm, John Spaniard, D. G. Watson, Nick Miller, Mr. Colker, Joe Connor, Bill Connor, John Kitchum, and several others. The Creeks will handle the Camanches rather roughly if they get hold of them.

Another press is to be started in the Choctaw Nation in the course of the year, to be conducted by a native editor.

On Saturday night last, at Port Smith, some rowdy soldiers getting drunk, assailed a Creek Indian and beat him nearly to death, it is said, without any provocation whatever from the Creek. They also assaulted and badly beat with heavy sergeant's swords some white men, with the same wantonness. Such conduct deserves the severest rebuke.

The persons who were on trial before the District Court of the United States for the District of Arkansas, upon the charge of burning some houses in the vicinity of Fort Gibson, and assaulting some Cherokee women, occupants thereof, have been discharged for want of evidence.

The United States Commissioner, Gen. Mason, with his two daughters, and Col. S. C. STANBACH, left this city on Monday for Washington.

An affray occurred at Evansville, Washington county, on Saturday night, between Thomas Bridgewood and some person whose name we did not learn, in which Bridgewood shot the latter in the side; and it is thought that the wound will prove mortal.

Mr. CLARK LANDERS, long a resident of this county, was drowned, about two weeks since, while crossing Red River. He had removed his family to Texas, and was on his return to this county when the accident happened.—*Intelligencer.*

The Toronto (Canada) Examiner of the 14th May contains the following article on Oregon:

"THE ENGLISH NEWS.—The Hibernia, it was expected, would have brought some further development of the mind and intentions of the British Government relative to the Oregon. From our extracts it will be observed that the subject has not been again mentioned in Parliament since the sailing of the Calcedonia. The war-spirit so suddenly raised, appears to have subsided as rapidly.

"The British Ministry, and that portion of the press in their interest, have treated this war-question as if the lapse of half a century had produced no change in the moral condition of the nations of the earth. As if Governments, in adjusting quarrels, had the same self-like population as their quarrels, and were to replenish their armies and to raise supplies for their maintenance, as in the times of the French Revolution, or the war which resulted in the independence of the thirteen American colonies. They appear to forget the advance which has been made by the masses of mankind in the knowledge of the true principles of Government, and of what constitutes national honor and greatness. A war now, to be popular, must be based on something more substantial than blustering appeals to the passions, prejudices, or pride of the people; it must have justice for its basis, and the establishment or promotion of the blessings of civilization, the extension of trade and commerce, and the happiness of mankind, by the diffusion of knowledge, for its aim. That any of these could be accomplished by a war between Great Britain and the United States, it would be folly to imagine. Nothing but misery could flow from such a war; and however much the Government might be disposed to sanction an appeal to arms for the settlement of the Oregon question, the people of Great Britain never will. They are yet groaning under the debt entailed upon the nation by the last European war in which she was engaged, and taxes levied in consequence keeps them in mind of its consummate folly and dreadful consequences."

DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT TREASURE.—We find the following story in the Columbus (Georgia) Enquirer:

"We learn, from a source which we think entitled to full credit, that a large deposit of silver coin was discovered about two weeks since on the east bank of the Altamaha river, about five miles below the junction of the Ocmulgee and Oconee, in Tallapoosa county. The place is called Miligan's Bluff, near Hall's Ferry. The circumstances related are that a man by the name of John Maze discovered three dollars, which had become exposed by the blowing up of a tree. He commenced examining the earth below, and the coin continued to appear until he had exhumed the handsome amount of forty-five thousand Spanish dollars. They appeared to have been deposited in canvas bags, and at some remote period, as the latest date on the coin was over one hundred and sixty years."

"The place where they were found had the appearance of an ancient fortification, such as are common in many parts of Georgia, several of which may be seen in this vicinity. When or by whom this deposit was made, does not admit of a reasonable conjecture. It is undoubtedly, from the date of the coin, more recent than the expedition of De Soto and others, of which we have some authentic account.

"The money, we understand, was found on the land of Mr. Gray, a widow, in needy circumstances, and a relative of the fortunate discoverer, who has shared it with her."

THE SLAVE-TRADING CASE.

Captain Flower and the crew of the *Spitfire*, which has just been sent into Boston by the U. S. brig *Truxton*, on her charge of being engaged in the slave-trade, were brought up for examination on Thursday last. The deposition of Thomas Turner, taken on board the *Truxton*, March 16, was read. He swore that he saw the vessel now called the *Spitfire*, then called the *Calabero*, in the river Pongo, on the 11th of February, and supposed her business was to take on board a cargo of slaves, because, first, she had two captains—an American captain and a Spanish captain; second, all her goods were packed in the owner of the slave-trade off which she was moored; third, her appearance was that of a vessel built for speed rather than cargo; fourth, her having water-cask-shoos on board.

Turner further stated that he shipped on board the *Calabero* November 11, 1843, as a seaman and carpenter, at Baltimore; that not being able to procure a clearance at that city, she came to New York, where she cleared for the coast of Africa November 27, 1843. He further said:

"We arrived in the Rio Pongo, west coast of Africa, in the latter part of December. We ascended the Rio Pongo to Mr. P. Faber's slave factory, where we discharged all the vessel's cargo, and took in water and ballast. We sailed from the Rio Pongo and proceeded to Prince Island, where we took on board eighteen casks of about a hundred and twenty gallons each, called palm-oil-casks, and returned to Rio Pongo. On arriving in the Rio Pongo, the vessel was again moored near Mr. P. Faber's slave factory. Preparations were made to take on board a cargo of slaves, by filling the casks with water, &c. During the time of these operations, the *Calabero* was under the American flag. She was then sold to Mr. P. Faber for the sum of \$10,000, and her name was scratched off her stern. She then went down the river, and anchored just inside the bar. At this anchorage we took on board three hundred and forty-six slaves; then got under way, and proceeded immediately to the island of Cuba and landed the cargo of slaves at a point about thirty miles to the southwest of Matanzas. From the time of the vessel's sale to Mr. P. Faber up to this period, no flag was hoisted on board her, and she bore no name on her stern. After the slaves were landed, the vessel was delivered over to the Spaniards, who she lay."

The vessel I left lying in the Rio Pongo on the 11th of February last, named the *Spitfire*, of New Orleans, and supposed to be lying there now, is the slave vessel whose sailing voyage to the West Indies I have described above. The said vessel always hoisted American colors when the British men-of-war boats came in sight of her."

The prisoners were committed for trial, and the four witnesses, Smith, Turner, Parker, and Dawson, were ordered to find bail in \$5,000 each to appear and testify.

FROM THE COAST OF AFRICA.

The following is an extract of a letter from an officer on board the United States brig *Truxton*, dated off Sierra Leone river on the 29th of March:

"Here we are, in tow of her Britannic Majesty's steamer *Ardent*, with an American schooner on prize, and a Spanish brigantine, prize to the steamer, captured in the Rio Pongo, one hundred miles to the northward. We had good information when we left Monrovia that there was a vessel in the Pongo waiting a cargo; and on our arrival off the river, finding an English man-of-war steamer, arrangements were made to send a combined boat expedition to make captures for both vessels. They proceeded about fifty miles from the anchorage outside the bar, carrying English colors all the way. On coming in sight, our little schooner ran up the American ensign, to protect herself from any suspicion, when our own boats, after running alongside of her, changed their ensigns, and produced the stripes and stars, much to the astonishment of those on board. She proved to be the *Spitfire*, of New Orleans, and ran a cargo of slaves from the same place last year; of only about one hundred tons, but, though of so small a size, stowed three hundred and forty-six negroes, and landed near Matanzas, island of Cuba, three hundred and thirty-nine. Between her decks, where the slaves are packed, there is not room enough for a man to sit, unless inclining his head forward. Their food is half a pint of rice per day, with one pint of water. No one can imagine the sufferings of slaves on their passage across, unless the conveyances in which they are taken can be examined. Our friend had none on board, but his cargo of three hundred were ready in a barracoen, outside the bar, waiting to be taken on board. The negroes cost but twenty dollars, or thereabouts, and is purchased for rum, powder, tobacco, cloth, &c. They bring from three to four hundred dollars in Cuba. The English are doing every thing in their power to prevent the slave-trade, and keep a force of thirty vessels on the coast, all actively cruising. This force is to be very much increased shortly."

"April 4th.—Our prize is all ready, and sails for Boston to-morrow, under charge of Lieut. Rely, with all the necessary papers and documents to condemn her. I am glad that the ice has been broken, and that we have been the ship to do it."

We have been frequently on shore here, and received every attention from the people; I mean the white residents. They live like nabobs, and by good cheer compensate, in a measure, for the unhealthfulness of a tropical climate. At present, however, Sierra Leone is very healthy, it being the dry season, or near the end of it. Many persons are sick on shore with the fever, and with some there have become a chronic disease. We are all well on board, including all those who were engaged in the boat expedition. It was expected that many would have been taken down; but our good fortune has sent us here during the healthiest season of the year, and we have been favored every way since our arrival on the coast. We leave to-morrow for Cape Verde and a pleasant excursion among the Canary Islands, returning to Port Praya in fifty days from our departure. We are in great hopes that we have seen the last of the coast, as it are heartily tired of it, and anxious to get home. Our prize may hasten us, as we believe the captain intends to defend himself."

NEW YORK AND ERIE RAILROAD.

The new act of the Legislature of New York, of which we subjoin the substance, places this enterprise on a footing so favorable that it would seem as if men of capital would now readily come forward and take the stock. Not only is the \$3,000,000 loan from the State virtually abandoned to the company, but the holders of old stock are obliged to exchange it for new, giving two shares for one, or lose all the benefits of this bill. As the amount of old stock is about \$1,500,000, it follows that \$750,000, and the indebtedness of the company, amounting to about \$700,000, or say \$1,500,000 in the aggregate, is all that the new stockholders will have to pay for what originally cost four or five millions.—*Journal of Commerce.*

Synopsis of the law passed on the 14th instant in behalf of the New York and Erie Railroad Company.

The Company to be released from all liability to the State, provided they shall construct a single track from the Hudson river to Lake Erie, together with a branch to Newburgh within six years.

The law authorizes the Company to issue three millions of bonds in liquidation of the State lien, provided a subscription to their capital stock of three millions be obtained within a year and a half, and twenty-five per cent. be collected thereon, and expended in the construction of the road, and charged from all incumbrances. The bonds to have priority over all other liens, and the interest upon them, from their date of issue to the time fixed for the completion of the road, to be deposited with the Comptroller.

An agent is to be nominated by the Company, with the approval of the Governor, who is to give security in the sum of \$50,000 for the faithful appropriation of the proceeds of the bonds.

The State reserves the privilege of purchasing the road within one year after its completion, on the repayment of its cost at 14 per cent. interest.

The present stockholders are not to be subject to the provisions of the law, unless they shall, within six months from its passage, exchange two shares of their stock for one share hereafter to be issued; the Company being required to pay into the treasury of the State all dividends that may accrue on any unexchanged stock, until such dividends be sufficient to pay off such a proportionate amount of the State lien as the whole amount of outstanding stock now bears to that lien, which lien is equal to about double the amount of stock.

Three competent engineers, Messrs. Jervis, Childs, and Allen, are appointed to select and reconnoitre through Broome and Sullivan counties, and in case a practicable or judicious route cannot be obtained in Broome county, permission is granted for the construction of a portion of the road around the Great Bend of the Susquehanna river, in the State of Pennsylvania, the assent of that State thereto having already been obtained.

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

The following letter is put forth in the "Washington Union" as the last from General JACKSON, who, it will be seen, says he is but "a blubber of water from the toes to the crown of his head"—dropsy. What a lamentable exhibit it makes of this last remnant of mortality! Well may the General exclaim, "Save me from my friends!"

"HERMITAGE, MAY 3, 1845.
"MY DEAR MR. BLAIR: This is the third effort I make to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and much esteemed favor of the 19th ult., and to read in every word of it your sincere friendship and regard; I esteem it a legacy beyond price."

"We are all cheered at the Hermitage with the hope of seeing our kind friend, Mrs. Blair, with you and family, at the Hermitage. Relieved, as you now are, from the incessant labor of editing the *Globe*, a journey with Mrs. Blair as far as the Hermitage would renew your health, and be of great benefit to you. What pleasure this would give us all! and our dear little Rachel is in ecstasy that she will now see her dear friend Mrs. Blair. It would be a great treat to have our heart's chief before I go hence."

Here follow several sentences concerning his papers, concluding with these words: "I wish them handed over to you, to whom I will them for the defence of my reputation. There are many private papers that ought to go into no other hands but a confidential friend's."

"Our friend, Col. Polk, will now come to meet the brigades and batteries of Peel and Russell, put forth this time to alarm the timid and spur up the American troops. My dear friend, I am exhausted, and must close. I am a blubber of water from the toes to the crown of my head, and every time I write must pause for breath. May the choicest blessings of Heaven be bestowed on you and every branch of your family, is the united prayer of the inmates of the Hermitage."

BEAUTIFUL EXPERIMENT.—On Thursday, while making some investigations on the chemical forces of plants and the circulation of the sap, we were fortunate in the purpose of seeing how far the color of flowers was dependent upon the various salts contained in the earth, and which are taken up by the forces which convey the sap.

We took a beautiful white rose, placed the stem of it in a solution of the white prussiate of potash, let it remain there four or five hours. We then placed it in a solution of sulphate of iron, where it remained until morning.

On examining it the next morning we found the petals changed to a delicate primrose color, the leaves to a dark bluish green, and the wood of the stem to a deep blue. The veins in the petals were of a deep blue color. The fragrance of the flower remained unchanged, and it looked as fresh as one that was plucked at the same time, and which had been kept in a vase of water.

The rationale of these singular changes seems to be as follows: The prussiate of potash is taken up by capillary attraction, and distributed through every part of the plant. The same is the case with the sulphate of iron. As soon as the two solutions are brought in contact, the iron, acting as a reagent, revives the Prussian blue, which forms the base of prussiate of potash. This beautiful experiment can be tried by any one, care being taken that the solutions are not too strong. The effects noted above will not take place if the solutions are mixed in a vessel before using. The experiment may be varied by using any metallic solutions, the resulting colors of course depending upon the salts made use of.

[Cincinnati Atlas.]

FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

Letters from Buenos Ayres, dated March 31, and received at Boston, say that FRUCTUOSO RIVERA received a dreadful defeat from General URQUIZA on the 27th, himself narrowly escaping with a handful of his men. Also, that the French Admiral had resolved to recognise the blockade of Montevideo. If he does, and the British Admiral also, and the blockade is well enforced, the city must soon fall into the hands of ORTIZ. The only seat of war then will be the State of Corrientes, where General Paz has been getting up an army, to oppose which a force has marched from Buenos Ayres.

[New York Commercial Advertiser.]

ICE ON THE BANKS.

The packet ship *Roscius* arrived at Liverpool on the 21st instant, her passage having been prolonged several days in consequence of immense quantities of ice on the Grand Banks, extending one hundred and fifty miles. The following particulars are given in the Liverpool papers:

The *Roscius* left New York on Thursday, the 27th March, with a southerly wind, and on the first day took an observation, as also on the following day. For the next six days we encountered a succession of fogs so dense that no person on board could see six hundred yards before them, which prevented the captain from making an observation. Steered the course right across the banks to latitude 44.

On the 3d April, about midnight, passed to the northward an immense island of ice; but, not judging to be north of 44, kept on her course and fell in with a number of small islands of ice, and with the assistance of a fair wind got through them tolerably well and kept on her course. On the 4th April fell in with another immense field of ice, running about north and south as far as could be seen from the masthead. This was the first clear day they had since the 29th of March. Ran up to the ice, steering eastward, and found it so thick and solid that it prevented the ship making through it.

The ship was then halted to the southward, and ran parallel with the ice for twenty-four miles. It then began to incline to the southward and westward. Night coming on, and not being able to keep clear of this immense field of ice, lashed and stood to the northward, and continued tacking and working until the morning light. At this time the ship was to the